



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Drowning Prevention

Throughout the summer season, many Californians enjoy activities involving swimming at a pool, river or beach. Careful vigilance can prevent tragedy, especially drowning. Drowning is a leading cause of injury-related deaths among children ages five and under. More than half of these accidents occur in residential swimming pools.

There were over 60 drowning deaths among children ages five and under per year over the last five years. Additionally, children who survive a near drowning incident often suffer permanent brain damage. The California Department of Developmental Services currently serves 737 survivors of near drowning accidents who require lifelong services for their disabilities.

Knowing how to prevent drowning is a critical step in keeping children safe and helping them live to their full potential. I urge Californians to enjoy the summer fun, but to follow safety steps, such as constant supervision of children in and around water and the protection of fences, latches, poles and personal floatation devices.

Sincerely,


EDMUND G. BROWN JR.